

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190163

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QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190163

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: BHUTTO VISIT

1. SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 18-19 VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY
PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WAS MARKED BY MUTUAL
CORDIALITY AND CANDOR. BHUTTO DISPLAYED AIR OF CONFIDENCE
AND MATURITY CLEARLY DESIGNED TO BUILD PUBLIC IMAGE OF
PAKISTAN AS RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE FRIEND OF UNITED
STATES. FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS HEAVILY ON GLOBAL AND REGIONAL
DIMENSIONS OF PAKISTAN'S SECURITY. WHILE BHUTTO NEITHER
SOUGHT NOR OBTAINED NEW SECURITY COMMITMENTS FROM U.S.,
THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VISIT AND ASSURANCES OF
CONTINUED ECONOMIC/POLITICAL SUPPORT WILL DOUBTLESS BE
SEEN AS REINFORCEMENT OF TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.END
SUMMARY.

2. WASHINGTON STAY OF BHUTTO BEGAN ON NOTE OF GREAT
CORDIALITY WHICH EXTENDED THROUGH AND CHARACTERIZED
ENTIRE VISIT HERE. PRESIDENT NIXON'S ARRIVAL CEREMONY
STATEMENT THAT "THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN
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IS A CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY" SET TONE
AND APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN PAKISTANIS SENSE OF ADDED
CONFIDENCE IN THE VARIOUS TALKS WHICH WERE HELD. BHUTTO
HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, AND THUS WAS IN

POSITION NOT ONLY TO NOTE HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS AND CONCERNS BUT ALSO TO ELABORATE ON POINTS OF PARTICULAR MOMENT. IN ADDITION, HE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE, SPOKE

AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AND MET SEPARATELY WITH UNUSUALLY WELL ATTENDED SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IN ALL OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES, HE SOUGHT WITH MARKED SUCCESS TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF MATURITY AND QUIET CONFIDENCE. IT ALSO CLEAR THAT BHUTTO WAS SENSITIVE TO PROBLEMS WHICH ADMINISTRATION ENCOUNTERS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH CONGRESS AND SOUGHT TO AVOID COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT EMBARRASS ONE OR OTHER OF PARTIES.

3. INsofar AS SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS AT WHITE HOUSE ARE CONCERNED, JOINT PAKISTAN-UNITED STATES STATEMENT RELEASED SEPTEMBER 20 AND CARRIED BY WIRELESS FILE TO ALL ADDRESSEES SETS FORTH SCOPE AND GENERAL CONTENT OF TALKS. AS INDICATED, GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DIMENSIONS PAKISTAN'S SECURITY PROVIDED FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSIONS. ECONOMIC MATTERS ALSO DISCUSSED, ESPECIALLY PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF RECENT FLOODS. IN LATTER REGARD, BHUTTO WAS GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT U.S. WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE OF CONTINUING ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING VEGETABLE OIL AND COURSE GRAINS, TO HELP OFFSET FLOOD LOSSES; HOWEVER, HE WAS INFORMED OF PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US AT PRESENT TIME TO COMMIT FURTHER SUPPLIES OF WHEAT UNDER PL-480, BEYOND 100,000 TONS PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED.

4. IN MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY DISCUSSIONS, BHUTTO LIMITED SELF TO EXPLAINING HIS ASSESSMENT OF PAKISTAN'S SECURITY PROBLEMS AND THE RESULTING NEED FOR A MEASURE OF INCREASED MILITARY STRENGTH, SETTING FORTH IN SOME CASES HIS READING OF U.S. OBLIGATIONS UNDER 1954 AND 1959 AGREEMENTS WITH PAKISTAN; HE SOUGHT TO LEAVE LISTENERS WITH CONCLUSION THAT PRESENT POLICY UNDULY RESTRICTIVE WHERE AN ALLY IS CONCERNED. IN DISCUSSING POLICY WITH PRESS, BHUTTO WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE DIRECT, ASSERTING THAT PAKISTAN IS ENTITLED TO MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON PART U.S. HOWEVER, DESPITE FACT THAT NO DEPARTURE FROM EXISTING POLICY OCCURRED BHUTTO APPEARS HAVE SHOWN NO SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT. BHUTTO'S REITERATED REFERENCES TO "MOOD OF CONGRESS" AND "MOOD OF AMERICAN PEOPLE" DURING PUBLIC APPEARANCES DEMONSTRATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF FACTORS INHIBITING ANY CHANGE.

5. IN DISCUSSION OF PAKISTAN'S SECURITY SITUATION, BHUTTO REVIEWED ALONG FAMILIAR LINES GOP CONCERN OVER SOVIET DESIGNS FOR AREA BUT IN RESTRAINED MANNER AND INDICATED HE DID NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE PICTURE. IN RE-SPONE PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL QUERIES RE CENTO, BHUTTO

RESPONDED THAT SECURITY ALLIANCES HAD TO BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF TIME THEY CREATED BUT THAT THERE WAS A GEO-POLITICAL CONTINUITY THAT ALSO COULD NOT BE IGNORED. HE SAID U.S. VIEWS WOULD BE HEAVILY INFLUENTIAL AS TO FUTURE OF CENTO; HE WOULD BE GUIDED BY THEM BUT MADE CLEAR AT SAME TIME HIS RESERVATIONS AS TO CENTO'S CONTINUED UTILITY.

6. PROGRESS UNDER SIMLA AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED AND, AS JOINT STATEMENT INDICATED BHUTTO GIVEN DUE CREDIT FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE. IN TALK WITH ACTING SECRETARY, BHUTTO INDICATED HIS VIEW THAT INDIA GOING THROUGH BAD PERIOD DOMESTICALLY, FEELS PINCH IN ITS RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION, SENSES CONTRADICTION IN SOVIET TIE AS IT SEEKS BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND GIVES SENSE OF GENERAL MALAISE. BHUTTO SAID PAKISTAN TOOK NO COMFORT FROM THIS; IT WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON MUTUAL ARMS REDUCTION.

7. BHUTTO WAS FORTHCOMING ON NARCOTICS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. HE MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT PROBLEM AFFECTS ALL AND THUS PAKISTAN ANXIOUS DO ITS PART. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, HIS COUNTRY WILL NEED SUPPORT. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES NEED EQUIPMENT IF THEY ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE. OPIUM CULTIVATORS WILL ALSO NEED SUPPORT UNTIL THEY CAN FIND ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME. BHUTTO NOTED THESE CULTIVATORS LOCATED IN FREQUENTLY BOISTEROUS TRIBAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AREAS AND THUS PROBLEM MORE THAN NORMALLY COMPLICATED. BHUTTO WAS GIVEN ASSURANCES OF "STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS."

8. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT BHUTTO VISIT HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING FURTHER MATURITY TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. PRESIDENT'S DEMONSTRATED REGARD FOR PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP AND WARM EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN HAVE GIVEN ADDED CONFIDENCE TO THE PAKISTANI LEADER. MOREOVER, BHUTTO'S POSTURE ON MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUE REINFORCES OUR VIEW THAT OUR DECISION TO CONTINUE TO PLACE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR SIMLA PROCESS HAS BEEN APPROPRIATE COURSE.

9. WE THINK PAKISTANIS WILL ALSO CONCLUDE THAT VISIT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. BHUTTO GIVEN OPPORTUNITY, WHICH HE SEIZED, TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF A CONFIDENT LEADER OF A CONFIDENT PEOPLE WHO TOGETHER HAVE CONFRONTED AND OVERCOME VERY SERIOUS CHALLENGES. BHUTTO'S DEMEANOR IN SOME CONTRAST TO THAT OF TEN YEARS AGO, WAS IMPRESSIVE FOR ITS STATESMANLIKE BEARING. HIS STYLE WAS CALM AND THOUGHTFUL, AND LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD DEAL

RATIONALLY WITH HIS COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. WHILE BHUTTO
MAY HAVE LITTLE DRAMATIC TO ANNOUNCE UPON HIS RETURN,
THE IMAGE HE HAS PROJECTED HERE IS AN IMPORTANT

ACCOMPLISHMENT. RUSH UNQTE RUSH

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